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09/286,043      04/05/99      SCHNEITER

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EXAMINER

HQ.R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2771

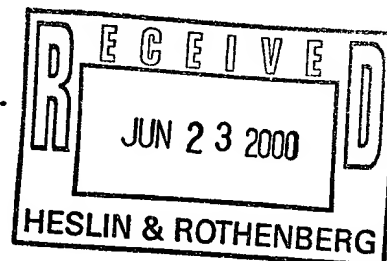
DATE MAILED:

06/21/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

DOCKETED 9/21/00



# Office Action Summary

Application No.  
09/286,043

Applicant(s)

Schnelter et al.

Examiner

RUAY LIAN HO

Group Art Unit

2771

☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Apr 5, 1999

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1035 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

## Disposition of Claim

☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are pending in the application

Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration

☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

## Application Papers

☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some\* ☒ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

## Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 2

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

2. Claims 1-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Hogan et al. (USPN 5,778,368).

#### **Regarding claim 1:**

Each and every element of claim 1 is disclosed by Hogan et al., note: the claimed 'requesting from a first computer to second computer remote from the first computer in the distributed computer system to search information of at least one entity' is shown in col.9, l.14-36,

the claimed 'indicating from the first computer to search agent associated with the second computer to at least one search criterion for the information of the at least one entity' is shown in col.14, l.25-33,

the claimed 'accessing by the search agent at least one database remote from the first computer and the second computer in the distributed computer system' is shown in col.9, l.14-36,

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the claimed 'at least one database comprises information of a plurality of entities including the at least one entity, and wherein the at least one entity comprises less than all of the plurality of entities' is shown in col.11, l.37-61,

the claimed 'performing by the search agent a search based on the at least one search criterion on only the information of the at least one entity in the at least one database' is shown in col.11, l.37-61 & col.14, l.25-33.

**Regarding claim 2:**

The claimed 'providing results of the search to the search agent' is shown in col.11, l.37-61.

**Regarding claim 3:**

Claim 3 is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 2.

**Regarding claim 4:**

The claimed 'the search agent is transferred from the second computer to the first computer and runs at the first computer, wherein a communication agent also resides at the first computer, the communication agent performing the requesting and the indicating, and wherein the search agent provides the results of the search to the communication agent' is shown in col.4, l.10-65.

**Regarding claim 5:**

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The claimed 'at least one database is stored at at least one third computer remote from the first computer and the second computer in the distributed computer system, and wherein the search agent resides at the at least one third computer' is shown in col.11, l.1-13.

**Regarding claim 6:**

Claim 6 is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 5.

**Regarding claim 7:**

Claim 7 is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 5.

**Regarding claim 8:**

The claimed 'the first computer is associated with a buyer, wherein the second computer is associated with a seller, wherein the at least one entity comprises the seller, and wherein the information comprises product and/or service information of the seller' is shown in col.5, l.58 to col.6, l.26.

**Regarding claim 9:**

Claim 9 is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 5.

**Regarding claim 10:**

Claim 10 is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 1.

**Regarding claim 11:**

Claim 11 is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 1.

**Regarding claim 12:**

Claim 12 is rejected for the similar rationale given for claims 1, 4, 8.

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**Regarding claim 13:**

Claim 13 is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 5.

**Regarding claim 14:**

Claim 14 is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 5.

**Regarding claim 15:**

Claim 15 is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 5.

**Regarding claim 16:**

The claimed 'at least one search criterion comprises a null criterion such that the search returns all information of the at least one entity in the at least one database' is shown in col.4, 1.20-34.

**Regarding claims 17-33:**

Claims 17-33 are rejected for the similar rationale given for claims 1-16.

**Regarding claims 34-46:**

Claims 34-46 are rejected for the similar rationale given for claims 1-16.

**Regarding claim 47:**

Claim 47 is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 1.

**Regarding claim 48:**

Claim 48 is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 1.


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3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ruay L. Ho whose telephone number is (703) 305-3834. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 10 am to 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Yen Vu, can be reached on (703) 305-4393. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-9051 or (703) 308-5403.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3800.



**RUAY LIAN HO**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**Patent and Trademark Office**  
**ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND COMMISSIONER**  
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The employees of Technology Center 2700